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NON-KEKULE MOLECULES -- THEORY, PRACTICE, AND USES

by
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The Twenty-Second Reaction Mechanisms Conference
at
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
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INTRODUCTION

Magnetic materials are of great importance in modern technology, especially in computers. To date, practical applications of magnetism generally require use of the ferromagnetic transition metals, especially iron. Qualitative theoretical predictions have indicated that certain types of organic materials will exhibit high-spin magnetic effects (super-paramagnetism), and may in principle allow creation of domains of purely organic ferromagnetism. Although there have been isolated reports of organic polymeric ferromagnetic materials¹⁻², much work is needed to clarify common structural features and potential synthetic paths to putative organic ferromagnets. We are engaged in both theoretical and experimental efforts to understand and create organic superparamagnetic³ and ferromagnetic materials, using polyradical systems.

1. Yu. V. Korshak, T. V. Medvedeva, A. A. Ovchinnikov, V. N. Spektor *Nature*, 326, 370(1987).
2. J. B. Torrance, S. Oostra, A. Nazzari *Synth. Metals*, 19, 708(1987).
3. Cf., for instance, Y. Teki, T. Takui, K. Itoh, H. Iwamura, K. Kobayashi *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 108, 2147(1986).

PROPOSED AND ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

THEORETICAL WORK

Use molecular mechanics and semiempirical AM1 (AMPAC) to predict geometries of model polyradical systems.

Use AMPAC and INDO-CI to obtain related energies for states of different multiplicity -- is high spin preferred, and for what type of pi-system connectivities? how great is the gap from ground to excited state?

Use ab initio theory for select small diradicals that are potential models for monomeric units of polymers.

Theory can serve as the guide for experiment.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

Develop a convenient method to generate polyradicals (esp. phenoxy) thermally and photochemically

Synthesize polyradical models to polymeric polyradical super-paramagnets

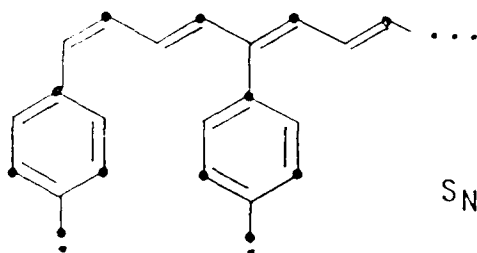
Study methods to generate and study polyradical models in matrix and in solid solution with an inert polymer

Eventually, use lessons learned from model studies to aim at synthesis of polymeric polyradical ferromagnets

Experiment is the crucial test of theory

BACKGROUND -- THEORETICAL STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS

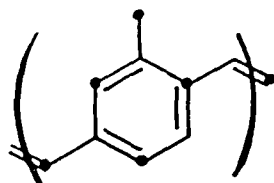
CONNECTIVITY in conjugated pi-radical polymers



alpha spin site

beta spin site

$$S_N = (N_\bullet - N_\cdot)_n \longrightarrow \infty$$

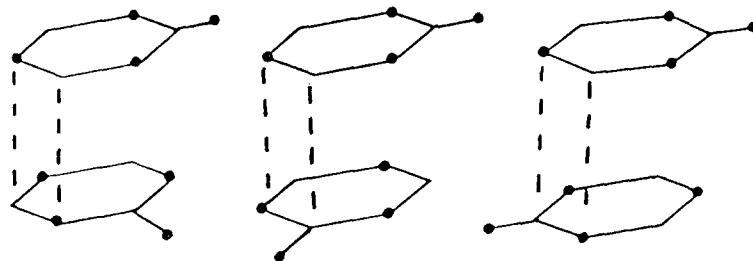


$$\text{monomer } N_\bullet - N_\cdot = 1$$

$$\text{so } S_N \longrightarrow \infty$$

Thus, a polymer chain of odd alternant radical units in pi-conjugation is qualitatively predicted to be superparamagnetic (high-spin).

3-D STACKING in conjugated pi-radicals



triplet

singlet

triplet

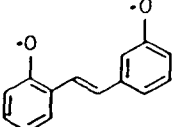
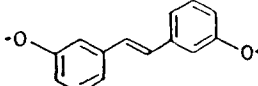
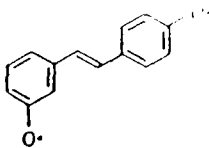
PREDICTED

McConnell has predicted the qualitative effect of various geometries on coupling between alternant radicals, and which types of coupling should lead to high-spin (ferromagnetic) spin states. The important criterion is to allow coupling of sites with opposite (alpha vs. beta) spin-density.

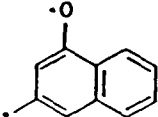
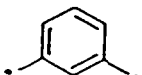

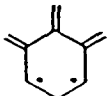
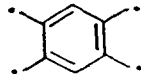
THEORETICAL FINDINGS

CONNECTIVITY EFFECTS ON POLYRADICAL GROUND STATES

Oligomeric models

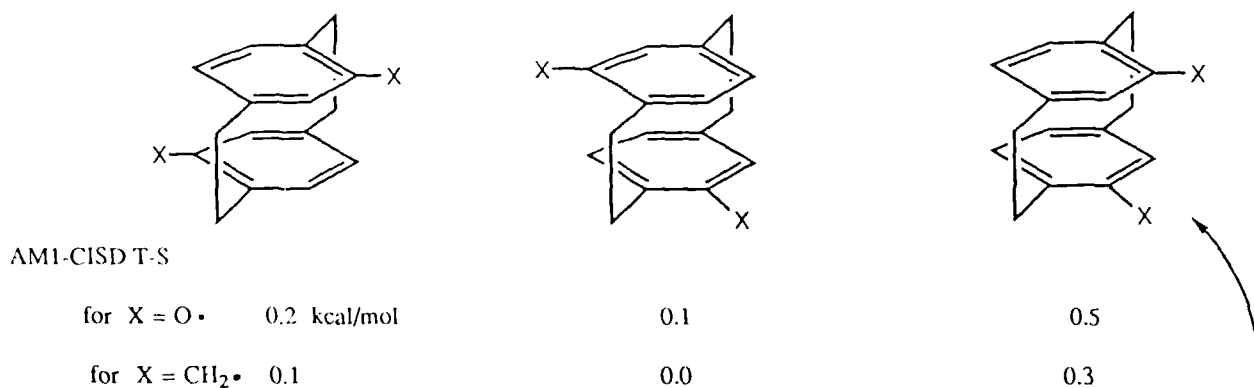
			
INDO T-S gap kcal/mol	2.5	0.4	-2.0

Monomeric models

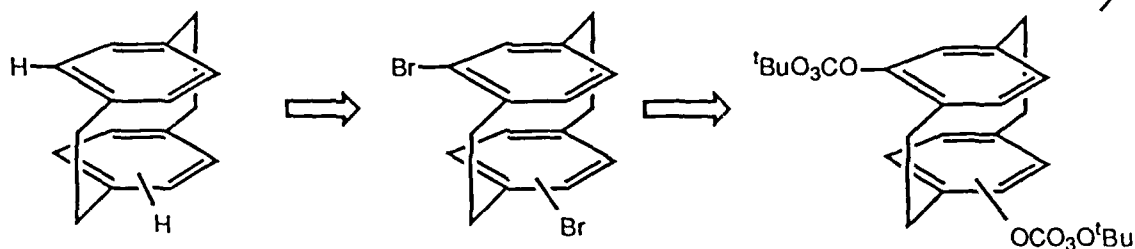
					
INDO T-S gap	18.6	11.9	-0.6	4.0	-11.3
ab initio	-	10.1	-1.7	-	-6.6
expt.	T	T	S	In progress at UMass	In progress at Yale

These are examples among a large number of INDO-CI calculations supported by ab initio work and confirmed by experiment.
 RESULT -- The INDO-CI model seems sufficient for semi-quantitative predictions of ground state multiplicity.

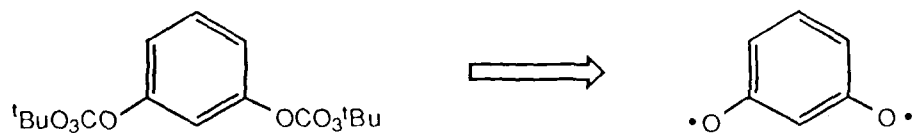
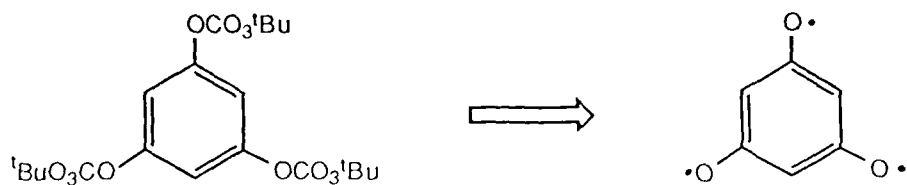
Computations qualitatively confirm the McConnell model for the dioxo p-cyclophanes.



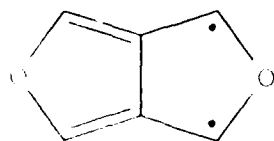
Synthesis of these molecules is in progress.



Synthesis of other potentially high-spin phenoxy-type radicals is also in progress.



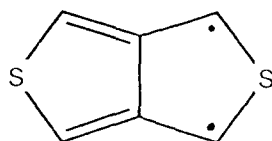
Use of semiempirical MNDO-UHF geometries and INDO-CISD spectral energies yields useful, interesting generalization of trends, even among dirdicaloid (rather than diradical) species.



15

1A_g	0.0
$^3B_{2u}$	12.9

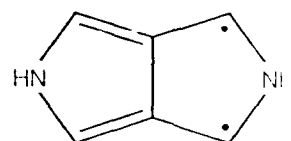
4n+2 species



16

1A_g	0.0
$^3B_{2u}$	10.2

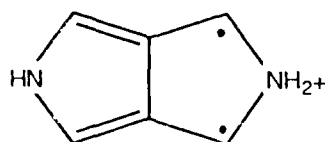
4n+2 species



17

1A_g	0.0
$^3B_{2u}$	25.2

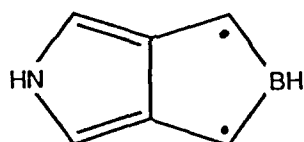
4n+2 species



19

1A_1	0.0
3B_2	5.1

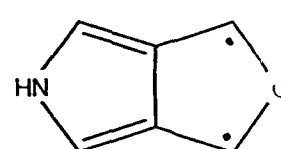
4n species



20

1A_1	0.0
3B_2	5.3

4n species



21

1A_1	0.0
3B_2	13.3

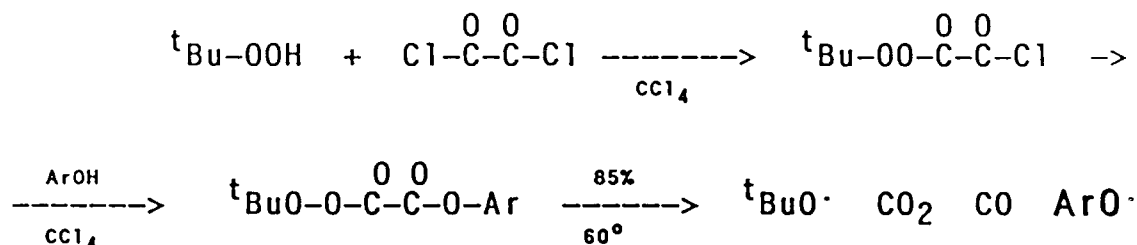
4n species
+2

DEVELOPMENT OF RADICAL GENERATION CHEMISTRY

STRATEGY:

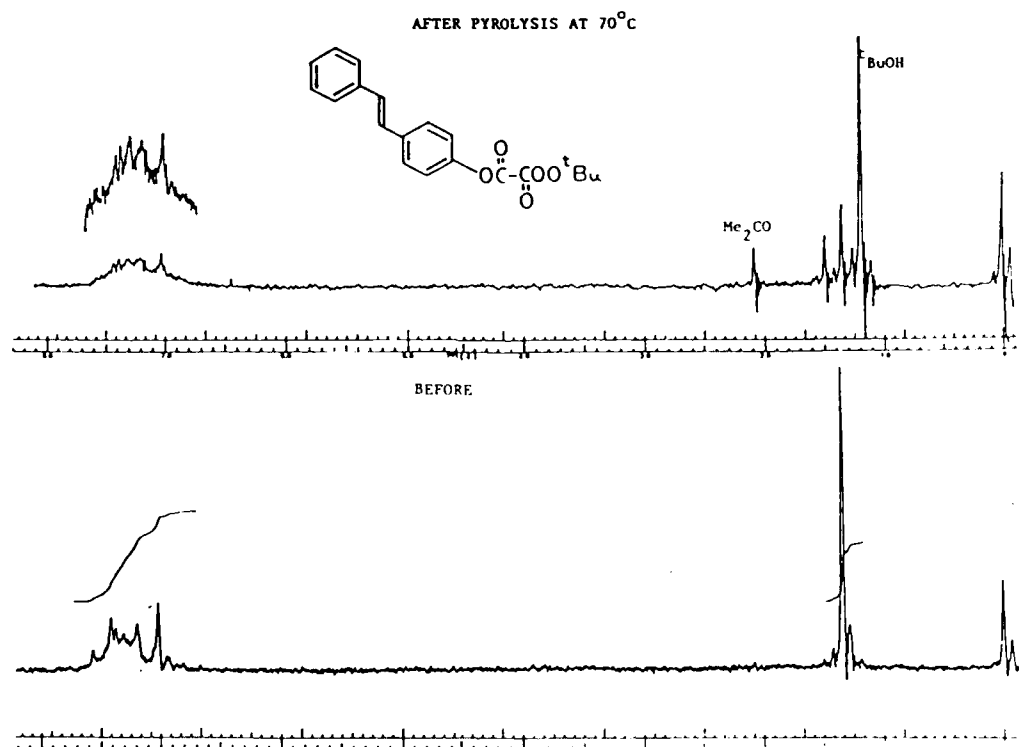
It would be useful to produce phenoxy radicals thermally or photochemically. In principle, one might thereby produce a magnetic record in a polymer containing polyradical precursors by irradiation or heating. A fairly active moiety is needed to produce radicals, yet with sufficient stability to allow subsequent chemistry in preparing a polymer.

PRESENT SOLUTION:

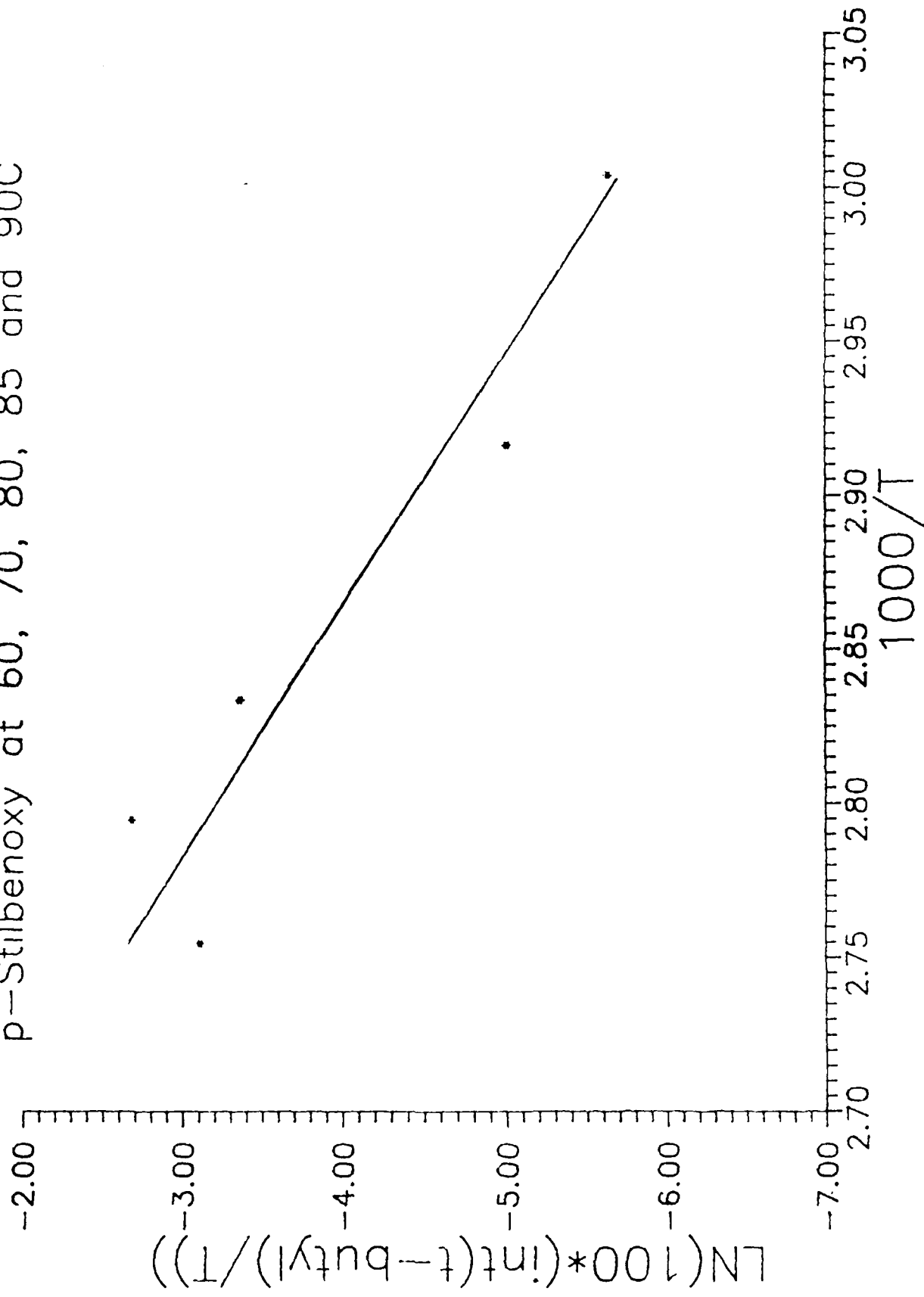


RESULT:

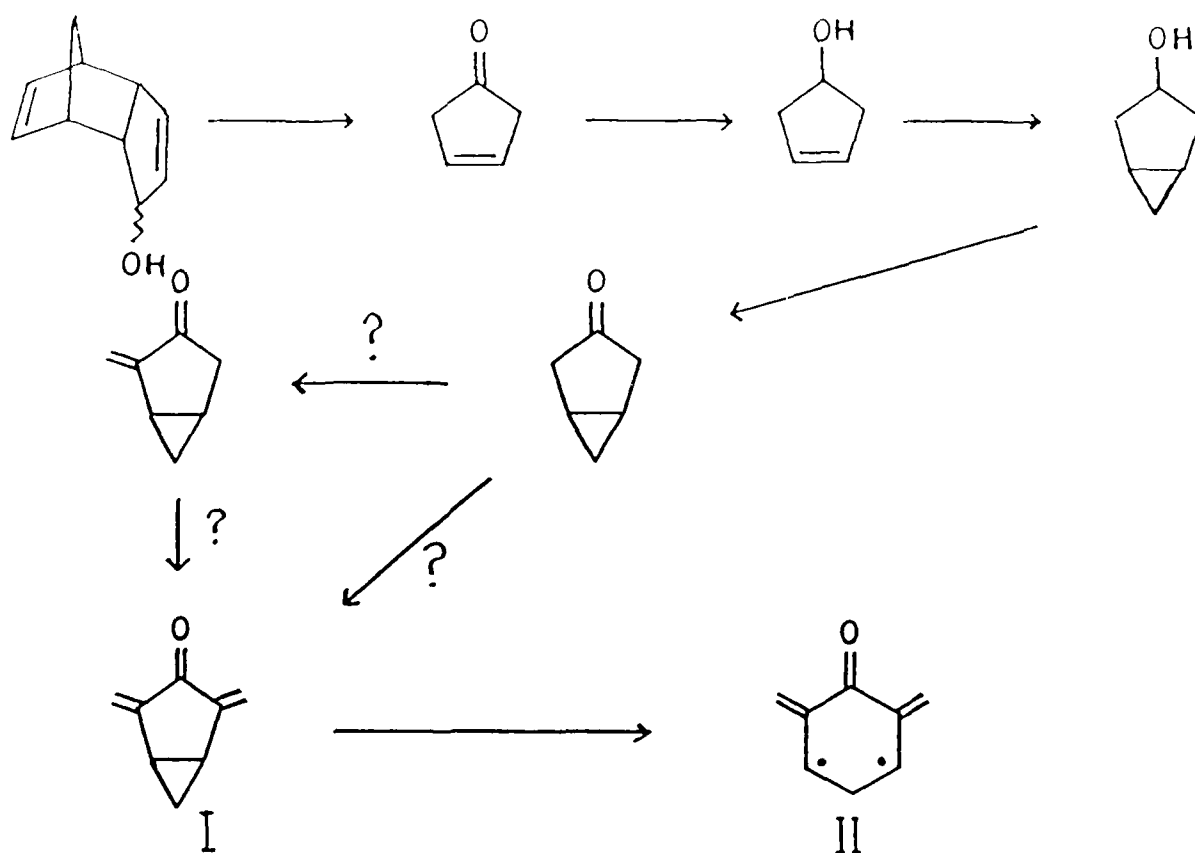
Decomposition of peroxyoxalates yield typical radical products.



Arrhenius Plot of the Decomposition of
p-Stilbenoxy at 60, 70, 80, 85 and 90C



EXPERIMENTAL MODEL COMPOUNDS TESTS OF THEORY

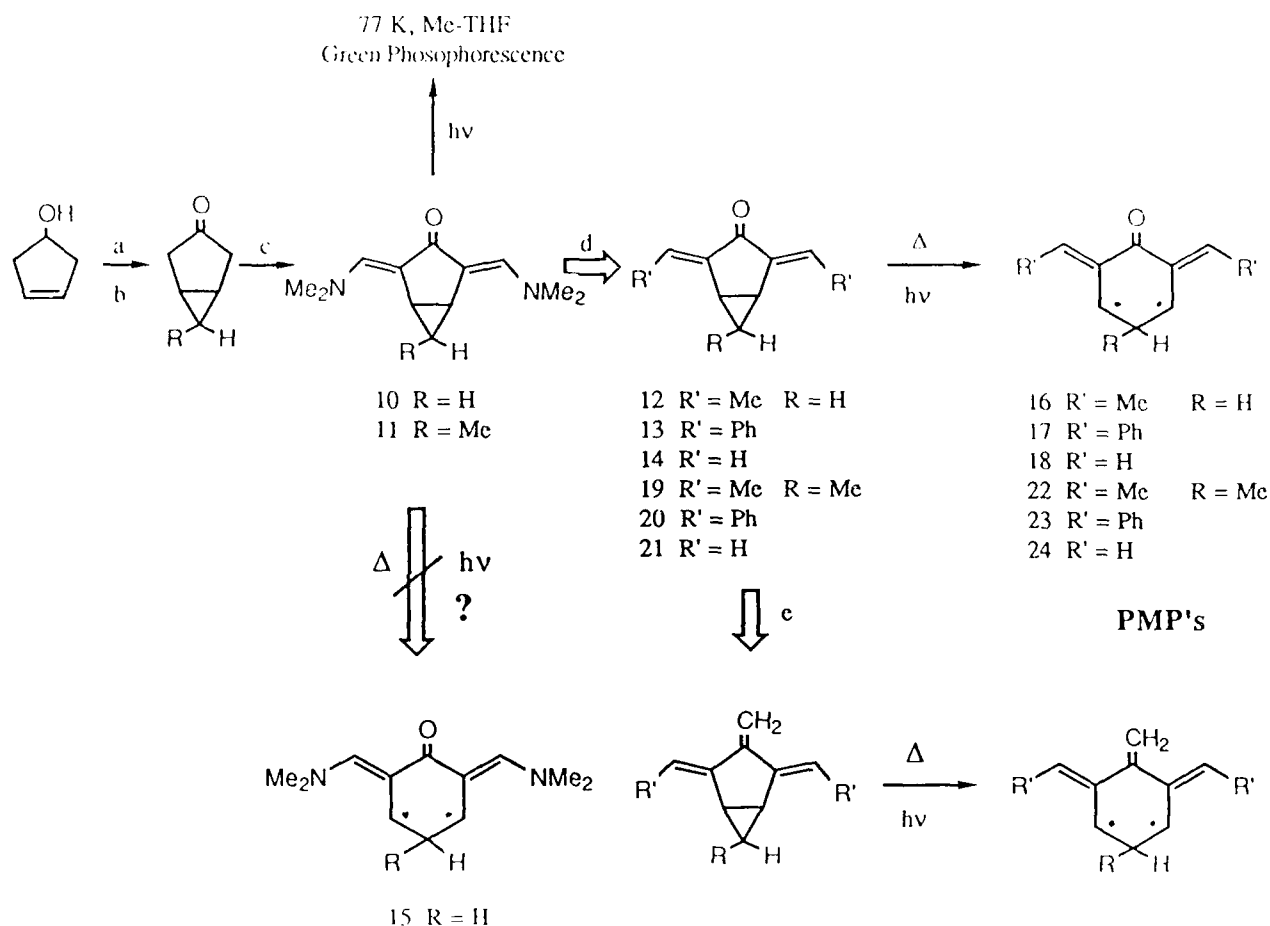


INDO/Ci indicates small T-S gap for II (~1 kcal/mol)

GOALS:

- 1) Final bis-methylenation to give diradical precursor I. INDO-CI predicts triplet ground state, supported by ab initio theory
- 2) Low temperature matrix photolysis of I, looking for triplet EPR signal and UV-vis absorption attributable to II
- 3) Determine stability of triplet II, as a potential monomer in an organic magnetic material

PENTAMETHYLENEPROPANES ARE AN INTERESTING CLASS OF DIRADICALS WHICH WE ARE STUDYING THEORETICALLY AND EXPERIMENTALLY.



a - $\text{RCH}_2\text{I}_2 / \text{Zn-Cu}$; b - PDC, CH_2Cl_2 ; c - $(^t\text{BuO})_2\text{CHNMe}_2\text{H}^+\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2^-$, Δ ; d - $\text{R}'\text{Li}$, Et_2O ; e - Wittig, Petersen olefination



In progress

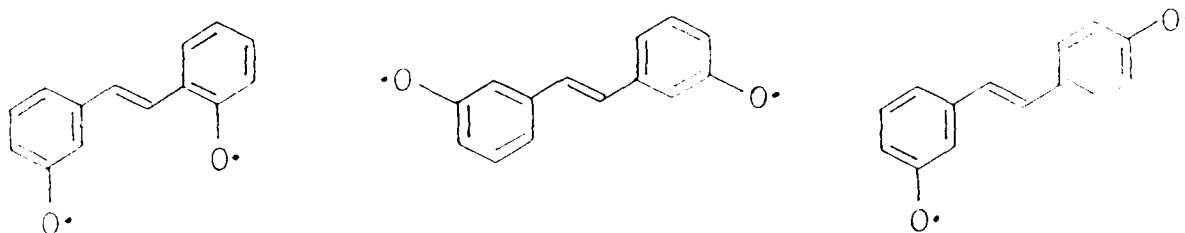


Completed

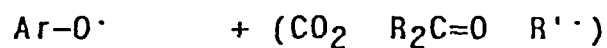
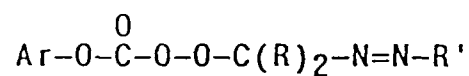
INDO-CISD indicates a modest (1-3 kcal/mol) favoring of the triplet state for PMP's,
in agreement with ab initio computations by ourselves and others.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

SYNTHESIS OF POLYRADICAL MODELS

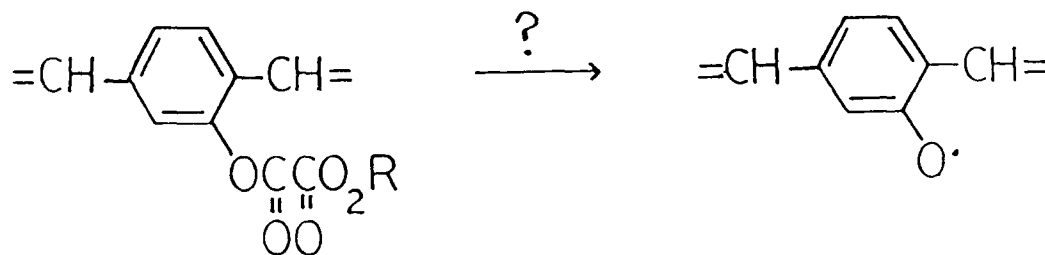


DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER RADICAL PRODUCING MOIETIES



cf. J. Warkentin et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 103, 7189 (1981).

BUILDING RADICALS INTO POLYRADICAL POLYMERS



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